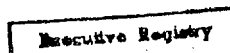


OLC RECORD COPY



Washington, D.C. 20505

4 FEB 1978

OLC 78-0349/a

Honorable Steve Symms  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Symms:

Your letter of December 27, 1977 to President Jimmy Carter concerning the personnel cuts in the Operations Directorate of the Central Intelligence Agency has been referred to Admiral Turner for response. In the Director's absence, I enclose a copy of his statement on this subject, which has been shared with both the Senate Select and House Permanent Select Committees on Intelligence.

Admiral Turner and I share your concern regarding the nation's operational intelligence capability. Please be assured that the reductions, both past and planned, in the CIA have as their ultimate objective a stronger and more responsive clandestine service. I hope that you find the enclosed statement alleviates your concern and answers any questions you have on this subject.

Sincerely,

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake  
Acting Deputy Director

Enclosure

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